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MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1798.

Whitehall, June 18, 1798.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, has been this Day received from His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland by his Grace the Duke of Portland, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Dublin-Caſtle, June 14, 1798.

My Lord,

I Have the Honor to acquaint your Grace, that Intelligence arrived this Day from Major-General Nugent, ſtating that on the 11th Inſtant he had marched againſt a large Body of Rebels, who were poſted at Saintfield: They retired on his Approach to a ſtrong Poſition on the Saintfield Side of Ballynahinch, and there made a Shew of Reſiſtance, and endeavoured to turn his Left Flank; but Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart arriving from Down with a pretty conſiderable Force of Infantry, Cavalry and Yeomanry, they ſoon deſiſted, and retired to a very ſtrong Poſition behind Ballynahinch. General Nugent attacked them the next Morning at Three o'Clock, having occupied Two Hills on the Left and Right of the Town, to prevent the Rebels from having any other Choice than the Mountains in their Rear for their Retreat. He ſent Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart to poſt himſelf, with Part of the Argyll Fencibles and ſome Yeomanry, as well as a Detachment of the 22d Light Dragoons, in a Situation from which he could enfilade the Rebel Line, whilſt Colonel Leſlie, with Part of the Monaghan Militia, ſome Cavalry and Yeoman Infantry, ſhould make an Attack upon their Front. Having Two Howitzers and 6 Six-Pounders, with the Two Detachments, the Major-General was enabled to annoy them very much from different Parts of his Poſition.

The Rebels attacked impetuouſly Colonel Leſlie's Detachment, and even jumped into the Road from the Earl of Moira's Demeſne, to endeavour to take One of his Guns, but they were repulſed with Slaughter. Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart's Detachment was attacked by them with the ſame Activity, but he repulſed them alſo; and the Fire from his Howitzer and

and Six-Pounder ſoon obliged them to fly in all Directions. Their Force was, in the Evening of the 12th, near 5000; but as many Perſons are preſſed into their Service, and almoſt entirely unarmed, the General does not ſuppoſe that, on the Morning of the Engagement, their Numbers were ſo conſiderable.

About 400 Rebels were killed in the Attack and Retreat, and the Remainder were diſperſed all over the Country.—Parts of the Towns of Saintfield and Ballynahinch were burnt. Major-General Nugent ſtates, that both Officers and Men deſerve Praiſe for their Zeal and Alacrity on this as well as on all Occaſions; but he particularly expreſſes his Obligations to Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart for his Advice and Aſſiſtance throughout the Buſineſs, and to Colonel Leſlie for his Readineſs to volunteer the Duty at all Times. The Yeomanry behaved with extreme Steadineſs and Bravery. Three or Four Green Colours were taken, and Six One-Pounders, not mounted, but which the Rebels fired very often, and a conſiderable Quantity of Ammunition. Their Chief was Munro, a Shopkeeper of Liſburn.

Major-General Nugent regrets the Loſs of Captain Evatt, of the Monaghan Militia. Lieutenant Ellis, of the ſame Regiment, was wounded. The Loſs of Rank and File was Five killed and Fourteen wounded. Several of the Yeoman Infantry were killed or wounded. The Major-General expreſſes his Acknowledgements to Lieutenant-Colonel Peacock and Major of Brigade Mackinnon, who were of the greateſt Service.

The Portaferry Yeomanry, on the 11th Inſtant, under the Command of Captain Matthews, made a moſt gallant Defence againſt a large Body of the Rebels, who attacked the Town of Portaferry; the Yeomanry having taken Poſſeſſion of the Market-Houſe, from which Poſt they repulſed the Rebels, who left behind them above 40 dead; many more were carried off. Captain Hopkins, of a Revenue Cruizer, brought his Guns to bear on the Town, and was of great Service in defending it.

Advices from Major-General Sir Charles Aſgill, dated from Kilkenny, the 13th Inſtant, ſtate, that on the Evening of the 12th, having heard that a large Body of the Rebels had marched from the County of Wexford againſt Borris, under the Command of Mr. Baginal Harvey, and were burning the Town, he proceeded to its Relief with 400 Men, but the Rebels had fled before he could arrive. They had attacked Mr. Kavanagh's Houſe, in which were 29 Men of the Donegal Militia, who, notwithſtanding the inceſſant Fire kept up on them for ſome Hours, defended themſelves in the moſt gallant Manner, and killed ſeveral of the Rebels. Nothing could ſurpaſs the determined Bravery of thoſe few Men. The Rebels effected their Eſcape into the County of Wexford.

A Letter, received by Lieutenant-General Lake from Major-General Johnſon, dated the 13th Inſtant at New Roſs, ſtates, that having received Information that the Rebels had fitted out ſeveral Boats and other Craft for the Purpoſe of effecting their Eſcape, he had ſent Lieutenant Hill, with ſuch armed Veſſels as could be ſpared from Feathard, where they were collected, with Orders to deſtroy the Whole; which Lieutenant Hill effected with his uſual Spirit, and without Loſs. Thirteen large ſailing Hookers and a great many Boats were burnt.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c.

CAMDEN.

His Grace the Duke of Portland,
&c. &c. &c.

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